



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

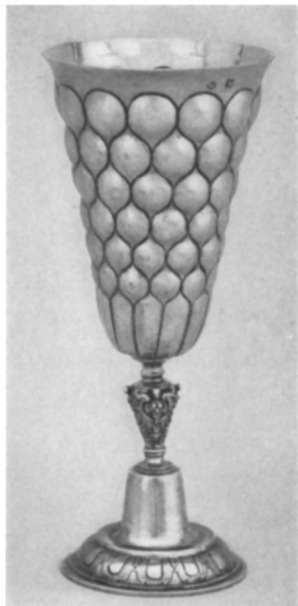
Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

A FARSIGHTED BEQUEST<sup>1</sup>

"**I** HEREBY expressly declare that said legatee has my full consent and approval either to keep and use the same for exhibition or in any other manner or to sell or otherwise dispose of the same as it may deem best."

on condition that the group of objects would always remain intact, would be exhibited always by itself and in the same room, and would bear as prominently as possible the name of the donor. These collections, accepted under such conditions, have almost invariably in the course of years reacted against the welfare of the



CUP, NUREMBERG  
EARLY XVII CENTURY

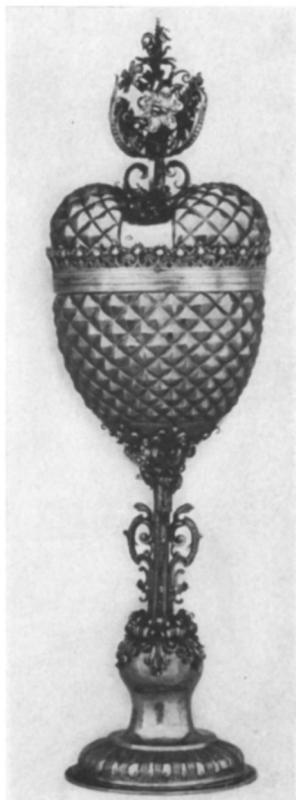


FIG. 5. HANAP, NUREMBERG  
FIRST HALF OF XVII CENTURY



CUP, AUGSBURG  
EARLY XVII CENTURY

The above clause of the Isaac Comstock Bates bequest calls attention to one of the many problems which have great influence on institutional work, whether in school or museum, that of the conditions under which gifts and bequests are received. In the early history of our great museums, such as those in Boston and New York, several collections and gifts were accepted

institution. It has been found, moreover, that works of unusual merit only show off to advantage when placed in the general collection of the galleries, with proper conditions of hanging and lighting, and with such pictures about them as will by comparison and contrast emphasize their real worth.

<sup>1</sup>Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Rhode Island School of Design, Vol. 1, No. 2. The

This state of affairs is not so apparent bequest cited was received by that school from its late President.

in the formative stage of development of a museum, when of necessity material for exhibition is eagerly sought for. However, at the present time, the smaller museums are profiting by the sad experiences of the larger ones, and, realizing that bequests which impose conditions are very liable to be an ever-increasing handicap, they are not so ready to assume such a burden.

The connoisseur or collector also is realizing that such an arrangement is detrimental to his or her own interests. It is readily seen that every piece which may be chosen is not of the same high standard. Then, too, as the collector's taste and knowledge develops, the standard invariably becomes higher.

The art lover of to-day is beginning to realize that it is an honor most to be de-

sired, to have his especial treasures in the art museum, where they can show off to the best advantage; and that it is not altogether a condescension on his or her part when a gift is made.

This new spirit actuating many donors of valuable gifts to our museum is indicative of a sense of duty to the general public, of thoughtfulness for the advance of taste, and of a farsightedness which visualizes in a measure a museum of high standards.

The bequest of Mr. Bates was made in this farsighted spirit, with the welfare of the institution and the public in mind, for his entire collection was given without any condition. The institution in accepting the bequest feels very grateful for this thoughtfulness, which has in mind the larger and much more important museum of the future.

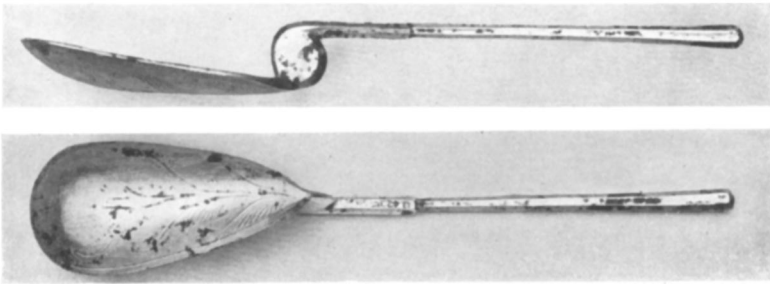


FIG. 6. SPOONS, VI CENTURY